(b)(1)

[redacted]

~~[C]~~

(b)(1)

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(b)(1)

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STRATEGIC MISSILE FORCE ESTABLISHED BY CHICOMS

COMMUNIST China has created a new arm of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), namely, the 2d Artillery Force, apparently to direct the deployment and operation of strategic missiles. This force reportedly is on the same level as the air and naval branches of the PLA. Lieutenant General Li Tien Huan and possibly Major General Wu Lieh are associated with the 2d Artillery.

The Chinese Communists are believed to have under development a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) which could become operational in 1969. During 1967, 29 probable MRBM firings were detected. The rate of launchings suggests that the ChiComs may be in the troop-training phase of their strategic missile program. ~~[C]~~